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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Armenian SSR) REPORT

SUBJECT Activity on a Kolkhoz in the Armenian SSR DATE DISTR. 6 JUL 1959

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report on a kolkhoz in the Armenian SSR, which covers the following topics:

- a. Farming methods.
- b. Kolkhoz organization.
- c. Plan and actual harvest 1957; plan 1958.
- d. Kolkhoz finances.
- e. Kolkhozniki reactions to structural changes.

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6. The months of January and February are relatively quiet months on the kolkhoz. Work begins on a full-time schedule in mid-February. At that time, if there is no excessive snow, all the irrigation ditches are cleared of sediment. The water comes from the Aras River and is very muddy. In February, work begins at 8 or 9 a.m. The brigadier gives his workers their assignments the previous day. (The brigadier himself receives his orders from the president of the kolkhoz.) In addition to work on the irrigation ditches, February is the month when ditches are dug around all fruit trees, four meters around and one meter deep. Superphosphate and manure are dropped into these ditches. This fertilization of fruit trees is completely finished in February.

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7. In March, [redacted] workers engaged in taking earth off the grape vines. (The earth was placed over the vines in the months of October and November to protect the vines from the frost.) After removing the earth, the fields around the grapevines are dug up to a depth of a foot, and fertilizer is thrown over the fields. The fertilizer used is calcium cyanamide and a substance he called "amachny silitra" (sic - phonetic) which he claims is also called Azod. This work is done by the women. The men then start to water the hay fields and the fruit trees via the irrigation ditches.

8. In March, tractors plow all the fields for cotton, barley, geranium, and vegetables. The workday begins at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m.

"azot" - nitrogen ammonium nitrate

9. From 25 March until 20 April, [redacted] brigade is busy planting cotton. At this time, hay, vegetables, and barley are also planted. Cotton is planted by tractors; barley, onions, and hay are planted by hand. Tractors are used to broadcast fertilizer -- calcium cyanamide for cotton, superphosphate for hay, and superphosphate and Azod for wheat. In March and April, the cotton fields are handled as follows: Before planting, all the workers, both men and women, pick up all the roots and brambles to clear the cotton

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fields. Then the seeds are planted. After the tractors sow the seeds, the women follow in the wake and cover all exposed seeds with earth.

10. From the 10th of April on, the cotton fields are watered. During the growth cycle, the cotton fields are watered ten times. Approximately the 25th to the 30th of April, the women begin to weed around the first growth of cotton. This has to be finished by 5 May. From 5 May to 15 May is the time for cultivating the cotton plants, which is done in the following manner: Each hectare of cotton field has 100 kilograms of seed planted. These seeds are planted in rows 60 centimeters apart. Each hectare produces 80,000 to 100,000 cotton plants. In a linear distance of 12 to 20 centimeters, cotton plants are all pulled out with the exception of two plants. This is done by hand. Tractors are used to plow a groove of 10 centimeters between adjoining rows of cotton. After this groove is plowed, women then follow and hoe up around the plant. From May until September, this process of plowing the field is repeated four times, and the hoeing by the women is repeated four times.

11. Also from the 10th of May until the end of July, the fields are sprayed by a green spray called in Armenian, Pahenzarchasp (sic- phonetic) or kaputsheep. This spray is mixed with Izvist (sic- phonetic) and is called bordeaux mixture. It is sprayed on fruit trees and grapevines. > lime. Polysulfide is also mixed two liters to 100 liters of water, poured into a tank which can be carried on the back, and then each cotton field is sprayed four times a year. [REDACTED] mentioned a new preparation from the United States and Germany called Merkaptafos. This is a great improvement over other sprays since with it a field needs spraying only once during the season. This is sprayed by tractors. Another spray that is used for a small louse-type of insect is nicotine mixed with water. This is sprayed on cotton, peaches, cucumbers, and watermelons, at least twice a year.

12. After 20 June, wheat and barley are harvested. This is done with combines and by hand-scythes -- the process taking about 15 days. When the process is finished, then the area is plowed once again. Hay is harvested five times a year -- in May, June, July, August, and September.

13. From 20 July until 5 August, the plants have grown and buds appear. The ends of the plants or shoots are cut in this period in order that all the growth be concentrated on the buds. In the months of August and September, weeding is continued in the cotton field.

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14. Grapes are harvested from 10 through 25 September, sometimes until 5 October. Grapes are handpicked by both men and women.

15. Between 25 and 30 September, cotton picking begins on the [REDACTED] kolkhoz. This cotton is picked until January.

16. From the 10th of October, geraniums are collected. They are used in making an oil which [REDACTED] heard was used in aircraft engines. The picking of geraniums takes four or five days.

17. During October and November, the grapevines are again covered with earth. Cotton is continually picked until January. In January, the women have little to do. The men also have more time off, but are kept busy some of the time carting manure to the fields. From 10 to 15 February, the earth is taken off the grapes and the whole cycle begins again.

Organization of the Kolkhoz [REDACTED]

The number of workers totaled 840. There were 20 administrative workers, 16 members of the central committee, 32 Party members, and 45 Komsomol members. 18. The command elements of the kolkhoz are the president of the kolkhoz, [REDACTED]; the bookkeeper, [REDACTED]; and the agronomist, [REDACTED]. Also connected with the kolkhoz, but not directly, are the president of the village soviet, [REDACTED], and the secretary of the Party organization, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that, since all the key officials in the kolkhoz are Party members, the kolkhoz is controlled mainly by the Party organization. The duties of the above-mentioned key officials are:

a. The president of the kolkhoz is responsible for the administration and every-day working of the kolkhoz.

b. Although the president of the village soviet is not directly concerned with the kolkhoz, he is concerned with the workers in the kolkhoz, since he is responsible for village maintenance, security, relations with border guards, documentation, and tax collection.

c. The secretary of the Communist Party organization is connected with the kolkhoz in that he is the official in charge of the local Communist Party and responsible for agitation by his Party members to increase the output of the kolkhoz.

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[redacted] Page 6 [redacted]

d. The agronomist is in charge of maintaining the efficient cultivation and raising of the various crops.
 The [redacted] is in contact with the [redacted] Party committee, [redacted] executive committee, and the [redacted] agricultural division.
 19. The brigadiers, or kolkhoz foremen, are in charge of the kolkhoz workers in the field. At the [redacted] kolkhoz they are distributed as follows:

<u>Area of Responsibility</u>	<u>Number of brigadiers</u>
Cotton	5
Fruit, including grapes	2
Livestock	3
Construction work	1
Repair of roads	4
Tractors	1
Motor pool	1
Assistant to president of kolkhoz on the inventory	1
Fuel	4
Milk	1

20. [redacted] was then asked about the crops of the kolkhoz -- the prices, production, and distribution. He seemed very knowledgeable, and there seemed little doubt that he knew the [redacted] kolkhoz in detail. He indicated that the main crops of the [redacted] kolkhoz are cotton, wheat, hay, vegetables, geraniums, grapes, and other fruit.

21. There are 739 hectares under cultivation in the [redacted] kolkhoz out of a total of 1,200 hectares, of which the kolkhoz is comprised. These hectares are distributed among the various crops according to a government plan. The following table, according to [redacted], indicates the area under cultivation for each crop, the government's estimated goal for production in 1957, the actual production in 1957, the estimated 1958 production, and the difference between actual production in 1957 and the estimated production for 1958.

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<u>Crop</u>	<u>Area under Cultivation</u>	<u>1957 Hectares</u>	<u>1957 Estimate</u>	<u>1957 Production for each Hectare</u>	<u>1958 Estimate</u>	<u>Difference 1957 Production and 1958 Estimate</u>
Cotton	322	2,421	2,050	2,150	+ 100	
Wheat	115	2,300	2,600	2,650	+ 50	
Hay	120	8,500	10,000	9,000	- 1,000	
Vegetables	30	8,500	8,000	8,000	---	
Geraniums	22	8,500	8,000	---	---	
Grapes	60	6,500	5,600	5,000	- 600	
Fruit (other than grapes)	30	8,000	6,000	5,500	- 500	

22. [redacted] mentioned that almost all the crops grown are taken by the government. The kolkhoz grows five kinds of cotton and the prices range from four rubles a kilogram for the best to 80 kopeks a kilogram for the poorest quality. These prices are those that the government pays to the kolkhoz. The average government price for cotton is two rubles, 80 kopeks per kilogram. The cotton is taken away to [redacted] *nearby cities*.

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23. Wheat is sold to the government at 25 kopeks per kilogram. The remaining wheat is kept for seed and for distribution to the kolkhoz workers. Wheat seeds are the only seeds the kolkhoz is allowed to use from its own crop. Other seeds are bought from the government. Each kolkhoz worker gets three kilograms of wheat for each workday, which is more than ample for his needs. It is the only commodity of which the worker receives a sufficient quantity. He sells the excess in order to meet his taxes and to have money to help dress himself. The kolkhoz workers usually make flat bread with the wheat and sell it for eight rubles a kilogram.

24. Grapes are sold to the government according to type. The average price is three rubles.

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[redacted] [redacted] Page 8 25X1

25. Geraniums are harvested for their oil. One ton of geraniums produces 600 grams of oil. According to [redacted] they were told that the oil is used in aircraft engines. The geraniums are processed in Oktemberyan, the oil being extracted there.

26. Hay is one of the more productive crops on the kolkhoz. The kolkhoz receives 15 kopeks per kilogram. Part of the hay crop is used for the kolkhoz animals and the border guard animals. The exact distribution is unknown to [redacted].

27. The garden vegetables grown on the kolkhoz include:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Selling Price in Kopeks a Kilogram</u>
Watermelon	25
Tomatoes	25
Pepper	30
Cabbage	20
Onions	47
Cucumbers	25

Any amount produced above the government plan can be sold for more than the above prices.

28. The fruit at the kolkhoz are peaches, which are sold for two rubles a kilogram; apricots, which are sold for 1.20 rubles a kilogram; and apples, which are sold for 2.20 rubles a kilogram. [redacted] did not know the total income of the kolkhoz.

29. According to [redacted] the kolkhoz pays the government for the use of the arable land, for grazing lands, and for the rental of tractors. Since the abolishment of the MTS, the kolkhoz has purchased the tractors. The kolkhoz now has additional expense, previously borne by the MTS,

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namely, for fuel and repairs. Another obligation of the kolkhoz is that 16 to 20 per cent of its total income has been put into a revolving fund; and now, under the new system, the contribution to this fund has been increased to 35 per cent of the total income of the kolkhoz. The money may be used by the kolkhoz for short-term loans for purchases of crop sprays and other equipment. The money has to be returned, however, to keep the fund at a constant level. [REDACTED] said that the government is planning to use this money to make loans to those kolkhozes which are in need. The kolkhoz pays for its water and gives meat to the government. A certain amount has to be given for each hectare of land. In 1957 this amount was 15,000 kilograms, the money equivalent of which is two rubles, 50 kopeks per kilogram.

30. After a kolkhoz has met all its obligations, the remainder of the money is divided into workdays. In 1957 the workday was worth 12 rubles. In previous years the workdays have been worth the following: In 1949, 21 rubles; from 1950 to 1954, from eight to 10 rubles; in 1954, 13 rubles; in 1955, approximately 10 rubles; in 1956, 9 rubles; and in 1957, 12 rubles.

31. [REDACTED] indicates that taxes take all the yearly income and that the workers do not have enough money with which to buy clothing or meat and fats. Based on 500 workdays a year (a brigadier's pay), these taxes are for each person as follows (however, they are somewhat less in a forbidden border zone):

- a. 676 rubles for his personal plot of land (576 rubles in border areas)
- b. 32 kilograms meat (28 in border areas)
- c. 85 eggs (75 in border areas)
- d. 2 rubles for each work day
- e. 25 rubles road tax
- f. 100 rubles insurance on house

32. Each kolkhoz worker is allowed a maximum of five sheep, one lamb, and one pig. The tax on these animals is as follows:

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- a. For each sheep, 1,800 grams wool
- b. For each cow, 1,600 grams cheese and 133 liters milk or two kilos, 800 grams of butter

33. The yearly pay scale on the kolkhoz is as follows:

- a. The president of the kolkhoz - 10,000 rubles
- b. The bookkeeper - 7,000 rubles
- c. The agronomist - 7,000 rubles
- d. Brigadiers - 3,000 to 5,000 rubles

e. The average kolkhoz worker gets 800 to 1,000 rubles; some workers receive as much as 3,000 rubles. The by-laws will not go to the city or rayon center to sell wheat at 70 rubles per pud, mutton at 23-30 rubles (5 kg.), pork at 20-28 rubles, potatoes at 4 rubles, onions at 3-4 rubles, grapes at 65 rubles, and butter 38 rubles. Some 34. [REDACTED] indicated that the new kolkhoz system replacing the old 34. [REDACTED] MTS system is not popular with the rank and file of the kolkhoz workers. Under the old system, the kolkhoz rented tractors. The tractor operator would get one workday of pay and an additional seven rubles from the kolkhoz as a premium if he went over his quota. Under the new system, the kolkhoz has to make a large initial outlay to purchase the tractors, which lowers the share of the kolkhoz workers. [REDACTED] one tractor with accessories cost 430,000 rubles. As stated before, the kolkhoz will also have to pay for fuel and spare parts and repairs which, again, will be an additional expense borne collectively by the field workers. Tractor drivers are especially unhappy because they will not receive their premiums.

35. Another factor which is also unpopular with most of the field workers is that under the new system they will not be able to keep track of their workdays. Under the new system, an average figure will be arrived at, and the same amount of workdays will be allotted to all the workers. Thus, the hard workers will lose money carrying the inefficient and the shirkers. The kolkhoz workers also feel that their share will be further reduced with the increased revolving fund which the kolkhoz will have to maintain in the Gosbank (35 per cent of the gross income instead of the previous 16-20 per cent).

35a. Unreasonable demands of the by-laws were made on matters of long hours, heavy labor, unreasonable norms to be met, and little compensation.

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[REDACTED]

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36. [REDACTED] was asked if there was anyone who was pleased with the new system. [REDACTED] the president of the kolkhoz, the president of the village soviet, and the Party secretary had all endorsed the plan because it gave them more power than they had under the old system.

37. The MTS has been replaced by repair stations which will service tractors.

38. ~~The~~ [REDACTED] kolkhoz has the following equipment:

1 - Diesel S-80 horsepower tractor

3 - DT-54 horsepower tractors

9 - Universals, which are used for cultivation, sowing seeds, and spraying crops.

1 - KD-35 tractor (a small tractor used in gardens)

1 - DT-24 four-wheel tractor, Universal, used in cultivation, seeding, and cutting hay

1 - Combine Stalinets-6 (the "6" means that it covers six meters)

1 - Thresher

6 - GAZ-50 trucks

2 - ZIS-15 (now called ZIL)

39. There was no inter-kolkhoz construction cartel in the [REDACTED] rayon.

40. Each kolkhoznyuk was entitled to 1,800 square meters of land on which to build a house.

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[REDACTED]

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4. The tables in these forms contain the worker's name, the date, the amount of work done, and the equivalent workdays. Their booklets are filled out every five days. Once a month the accounts are added by the bookkeeper, and the accounts are checked by the workers. The weekly booklet looks something like the following:

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	1	2	3	4	5							
Brigade [REDACTED] 1 to 5 Jan 59	Loads	and workday equivalents				No. of Days	Work-days					
[REDACTED]	10	.75	8	.60	5	.32	5	.32	10	.75	5	2.74

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